

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 17-20, 22-24, 33, 34, 36 and 43 are pending herein.

By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-8, 17-20, 22-24 and 33-36 have been amended, claims 5, 9-16, 21, 25-32, 35 and 37-42 have been canceled and claim 43 has been added. The claims are each amended to further clarify the subject matter contained therein.

No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the amendments to the claims is found in the original specification, original claims and Figures. In particular, support for the language added to claims 1, 17 and 33 is found in original claims 3, 19 and 35, respectively, as well as at, for example, page 3 of the specification. Support for new claim 43 is found in claim 1, as well as at, for example, page 32 of the specification.

More specifically, claims 1, 17 and 33 are amended to clarify the designation means and to add the limitation of a display means. The display means, according to amended claims 1, 7 and 33, displays, in a selectively designatable form, two or more of a plurality of different types of associated information from information stored in a storage means. In addition, the designation means separately designates at least one or more of a plurality of different types of associated information and displays the information by the display means.

In comparison, U.S. Patent No. 5,796,428 (hereinafter "Matsumoto") teaches means for displaying the picture image on the basis of attribute data in a picture display mode that is provided in an image storage/display unit. See column 2, lines 5-7 of Matsumoto. In addition, Matsumoto discloses that when the user clicks the edit tool icon 602, the user can perform an editing operation over the picture images. Operations available in the edit mode include scaling. See Fig. 9 and column 10, lines 28-34 of Matsumoto. That is, editing using the edit tool icon 602 changes the attribute data indicated at column 11, lines 29-58 of Matsumoto, and does not edit the image data itself stored in the storage means.

U.S. Patent No. 5,008,854 (hereinafter "Maeda") discloses a technique to delete a part of the image data itself being displayed. See Fig. 23 of Maeda. The types of data that can be edited (deleted) are different in Maeda and Matsumoto. Therefore, the references are not combinable.

For example, consider a device in which the device disclosed by Matsumoto and the displayed image deletion technique disclosed by Maeda would be combined. In the device disclosed by Matsumoto, the time data, the character data, and the like are stored as attribute data associated with the image data. On the other hand, Maeda discloses a technique for deleting the image data of a part designated on the displayed image.

Therefore, even if the character part can be designated by the designation means to delete the character data displayed with the image data, for example using the technique disclosed by Maeda, it is only that part corresponding to the character data that is designated as the image data on the displayed image data in which the image data and the character data are put together, and thus the character data that is the attribute data cannot be deleted based on the designation.

In other words, neither Matsumoto nor Maeda teach or suggest how data should be deleted when the existence of the information data of a type different from the image is shown by the display means and there is an instruction to delete that data. To accomplish this, it would be necessary to follow the steps of, for example, determining what exists in the image data portion designated by the designation means, and if it is determined that it is a character, recognizing what kind of character it is; determining whether such a character array is included in the attribute data associated with the displayed image data, and if it is included, deleting the attribute data. However, neither Matsumoto nor Maeda disclose or suggest such steps.

Thus, the mere combination of the references in which the types of data that can be edited (deleted) are different and thus, this combination of references would be inappropriate.

Even if the technique disclosed by Matsumoto includes a technique for editing the image data itself, it cannot necessarily be said that the above-described character data stored in the storage means can be deleted by combining Matsumoto with the technique disclosed by Maeda.

Further, the display means of amended claims 1, 17 and 33 displays two or more different types of information, among the information stored in the storage means, in a selectively designatable form of display. However, neither Matsumoto nor Maeda teach or suggest displaying two or more different types of information on the display means in a selectively designatable form. For example, when deleting "IN CHAINA TOWN" shown in Fig. 9 of Matsumoto, there is a case in which it cannot be immediately determined whether this information is an image (e.g., an image of an object printed with characters), characters or an input by a pen. If the user designates this by the designation means according to the technique disclosed by Maeda, it is impossible to know that such a designation is information different from the image data (since all of the information is considered as the image data in Maeda), and thus understanding and management of the information cannot be performed. According to the display means of claims 1, 17 and 33 of this application, since two or more different types of information, among the information stored in the storage means, is separately displayed in a selectively designatable form, the user can easily understand the type of the information and perform the deletion operation.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims further clarify the subject matter of the claims and that the claims are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of Matsumoto or Maeda, either alone or in combination.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6-8, 17-20, 22-24, 33,
34, 36 and 43 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 19, 2003

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